

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12 and 14-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 12 and 16 are amended. The amendments to claims 1, 7, 12 and 16 are made solely for the sake of clarity, and support for the amendments can be found in the original claims. No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 7 and 12 were objected to due to informalities, and have been amended in response to the Examiner's suggestion. We respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 12 and 16 have been amended responsive to the Examiner's suggestion. We respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1, 3-5, 7-12 and 14-16 on the grounds of non-statutory obvious-type double patenting over copending Application Nos. 10/508,656 and 10/537,765. The Applicant notes that a Terminal Disclaimer may or may not be necessary depending on the final status of the allowable claims.

We respectfully request that the rejection be held in abeyance until a finding of allowable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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